

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 15 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 13 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice with this amendment. Claims 11 and 12 have previously been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue cancelled claims at a later date. Claim 8 has been amended for clarity.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsubara (U.S. 6,065,708).

Applicants have cancelled claims 13 and 14, thereby mooted the rejection of claims 13 and 14.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants kindly thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-10 and 15 are in condition for allowance.

III. No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present or previous communications may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, the Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that the Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

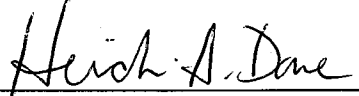
SUMMARY

Having carefully addressed all the rejections of the Examiner in the November 13, 2008 Office Action, it is respectfully asserted that the claims properly define the invention and that the invention is both novel and non-obvious. Allowance of the present claims is earnestly solicited.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the undersigned with any questions regarding this response to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 9, 2009


Heidi A. Dare
Registration No. 50,775
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, IL 60610
(312)321-4200